

**Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee**  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**  
January 9, 2004

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, January 9, 2004 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Robert R. Aylsworth, Christopher L. Burnham, W. Timothy Crowley, James W. Payne, Daniel L. Pflum, Charles F. Pratt, and Mary R. Harper, chair.
2. Guest present. Jimmie McMillian, Law Clerk for Justice Sullivan was also present.
3. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting on October 3, 2003 were approved.
4. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Anne Jordan, Jane Seigel and Bob Champion provided the committee with staff assistance.
5. Guests present. Suzanne Finneran Clifford, Director, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, (DMHA) FSSA; Cheryl Shearer, Bureau Chief – Children’s Service, Division of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHA); Steve DeMougin, Director, Division of Family and Children, FSSA; and Stephanie Beasley-Fehrman, Division of Family and Children, FSSA.
6. FSSA.
  - a. Steve DeMougin gave a report on Senate Enrolled Act 1, which limits property tax revenue increases. He said he could provide a spreadsheet of property tax rates and levies for distribution to the committee. SEA 1 was passed in December and signed by the Governor December 12, 2003.
  - b. Stephanie Beasley-Fehrman reported on the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) conducted by HHS. She said they reviewed 50 cases on site, in depth, in Wabash, Howard and Marion counties. Indiana would continue to be reviewed every two years for progress under a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) prepared by FSSA. In order to assist in the PIP, Stephanie Beasley Fehrman agreed to provide the committee with the following information on a county by county basis: (1) How many substantiated abuse cases; (2) How many SRA’s in a family for a given period of time, and total number of SRA’s; (3) How many IA’s; (4) Case manager caseloads and ratio’s; (5) How many CHINS filings; and call-ins to the hotline and number of screen-outs. Three years of data on these questions will be provided.
  - c. Steve DeMougin reported Indiana passed the Title IV-E review in the fall of 2003. He said federal agencies are getting tougher each year in their reviews. Anne Jordan said the Juvenile Benchbook Committee is working as a resource to assist compliance with IV-E rules.
  - d. Judge Payne asked for a list of facilities in Indianapolis licensed to receive monies under the children’s residential psychiatric fund created in 2003. Steve DeMougin reported that the Division of Family and Children issues the licenses for these facilities. Judge Payne noted that this results in very few facilities qualifying as providers of this service.

7. Plans for juvenile judges conference. Anne Jordan stated the juvenile judges conference will be held June 24-25, 2004 in Indianapolis. She distributed a draft agenda for the first day of the conference in which OFC directors, OFC attorneys and others will be invited.
8. Report on Missouri Div. of Youth Services. Judge Aylsworth gave a report on the building of downsized facilities for delinquents and the treatment team concept of the Missouri Division of Youth Services. It was based on a presentation by Gail Mumford on November 7, 2003.
9. Recent legislation. Committee members reviewed House Bill 1016 and Senate Bills 104 and 220.
10. Mental health services for juveniles.
  - a. Suzanne Clifford, Director, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, gave a presentation on mental health services for juveniles. She distributed a handout entitled "Action Plan for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances" and a map indicating various mental health programs. She thanked Judge Harper for her participation on the team developing outcome measures for the monies used for mental health services for children.
  - b. Ms. Clifford reported that a workgroup from the Commission on Mental Health would develop a statute to address juveniles incompetent to stand trial. Committee members described how these juveniles have already appeared in their courts. Cheryl Shearer agreed to forward information from Florida and Virginia to Jeff for distribution to the committee. She agreed to work with the committee and return to their next meeting on this issue.
  - c. Judge Pratt distributed material from the National Policy Institute for Children, which was held in Washington, D.C., Dec. 7-12. Kathy Rusher attended this meeting on his behalf as a judicial representative of a team from Indiana discussing mental health policy for juveniles.
  - d. Suzanne Clifford said the DMHA has begun the process to develop an assessment and screening tool for use by OFC.
11. New Interstate Compact on Juveniles. Bob Champion distributed background materials on the new Interstate Compact on Juveniles. Jeff Bercovitz distributed draft legislation for Indiana to join the new compact. Jane Seigel was concerned about the time intensive nature of runaway cases and the resources needed by the Judicial Center to administer them, and public safety issues. Committee members agreed to discuss this information and its implications for Indiana at their next meeting.
12. Next meeting dates. Committee members agreed to meet again on the following dates: February 6, 2004, March 5, 2004, May 7, 2004, and June 4, 2004, all from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law